



U.S. Department of Justice

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NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**For further information
703-842-4050**

Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced that Lonnie Tyrone Barnett, age 29, formerly of Hampton, Virginia, was sentenced today by the Honorable T.S. Ellis, III, United States District Judge, to life in prison for the 1993 murder of Barbara White.

In his guilty plea before Judge Ellis on November 3, 2005, Barnett admitted to having killed White as part of a crack cocaine conspiracy led by Thomas Hager, who is also charged in this case. Hager, Barnett, and Arlington Johnson, Jr., repeatedly stabbed Ms. White in her Fairfax County apartment on November 29, 1993. She was killed because of a violent confrontation Hager had instigated with a rival Washington, D.C. drug crew, and Ms. White's boyfriend was associated with this rival crew.

Arlington Johnson, Jr., also has entered a guilty plea in the case. He is scheduled for sentencing before Judge Ellis on April 21, 2006. Hager is scheduled to appear before Judge Ellis for arraignment on the pending indictment on February 27, 2006, in United States District Court in Alexandria. If convicted, Hager could face the death penalty.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Fairfax County Police Department. It is designated as an OCDETF (Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force) investigation. The prosecution of the case is being handled by Assistant United States Attorneys James L. Trump and Steven D. Mellin.

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